sending the communication out of the bridge on all other ports of the bridge having the same assigned group identifier as the first port.

22. The method of claim 21, further comprising:

identifying a source of the communication received on the first port of the bridge; and

maintaining an association of the identified source with the assigned group identifier of the first port.

23. The method of claim 22, further comprising:

identifying a destination of the communication;

determining a group identifier assigned to the destination; and

when the group identifier assigned to the destination and the group identifier assigned to the source are different, sending the communication out a client port not within the first plurality of ports.

24. The method of claim 21, wherein the communication is a multicast packet having a multicast destination address.

25. The method of claim 21, wherein the bridge includes a client port not within the first plurality of ports, the method comprising:

receiving a multicast packet having a multicast destination address on the client port;

identifying a group identifier within the multicast packet; and

sending the multicast packet out on those ports having the same group identifier as the group identifier within the received multicast packet.

26. The method of claim 25, wherein:

the group identifier is removed from the multicast packet before sending the

multicast packet out from the bridge.

27. The method of claim 21, further comprising:

assigning a protocol type to each group identifier,

wherein the protocol type identifies a communication protocol used by a station connected to the respective port.

28. The method of claim 27, wherein no two distinct group identifiers having a same protocol type are assigned to a same port.

29. The method of claim 21, wherein a port may have more than one group identifier assigned to it.

30. The method of claim 23, further comprising:

indicating the group identifier of the first port within the communication sent out the client port.

31. The method of claim 30, wherein the step of indicating the group identifier comprises:

replacing a redundant field within the communication with the group identifier.

32. The method of claim 23, further comprising:

connecting a router to the client port;

identifying ports on the router connected to the network bridge; and

defining, on the router, a correspondence between the identified ports connected to the network bridge and each distinct group identifier.

33. The method of claim 32, further comprising:

receiving a second communication from the bridge at the router; and

determining a group identifier of the second communication.